

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 2-8, 12, 15-16, 20, 24-30 and 34-39 are currently amended, Claims 1, 21-23 and 40 are canceled without prejudice, and Claims 9-11, 13-14, 17-19 and 31-33 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claim 40 and indication that Claims 5-14, 16-19, 22, 27-33 and 35-38 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable original Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 5 is allowable. Dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, 15, 17 and 19-20 depend from independent Claim 5 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable original Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 8 is allowable. Dependent Claims 9-11 depend from independent Claim 8 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable original Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 12 is allowable. Dependent Claims 13 and 14 depend from independent Claim 12 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable original Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 16 is allowable. Dependent Claim 18 depends from independent Claim 16 and is allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable original Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 27 is allowable. Dependent Claims 24-26 and 28-39 depend from independent Claim 27 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Therefore, all the pending claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 2-20 and 23-39 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please note that Applicants have changed representation and are now represented by new counsel. The formal Revocation of Power of Attorney / New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address documents will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig J. Loest

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